

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-22 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claims 3, 9, and 23-41 have been canceled in the application.

In addition to the Remarks submitted in the 116 amendment filed February 3, 2005, the Applicants respectfully request that the following be considered.

The Examiner appears to be contending that the limitation “wherein during fractionating the captured target is separated into a plurality of fractions based on molecule weight” in the amended Claim 1 is new matter.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present Specification includes the description that the combined bodies of the cDNAs and the DNA probes which correspond to the combined bodies of probes and targets are electrophoresed and moved in the depth direction of the gel block or the longitudinal direction of the capillaries, thereby being fractionated in accordance with the molecular weight thereof. Therefore, the limitation added to Claim 1 by Amendment filed on February 3, 2005 and the present Amendment is believed to be fully supported.

More specifically, the Specification states as follows:

1. “As a result, the combined bodies of the cDNAs and the DNA probes are electrophoresed in the gel block 23, thereby being moved in the depth direction of the gel block 23 and are three-dimensionally distributed in accordance with the molecular weight thereof, whereby the spots 26 are fractionated”. See lines 7 to 11 on page 22 of the Specification.

2. “More specifically, when voltage is applied from the direct current source 53 to the gel block 53 so as to cross it, the combined bodies of cDNAs and probe DNAs contained in the membrane filters 54 are electrophoresed in the gel block 52 to be moved in the depth

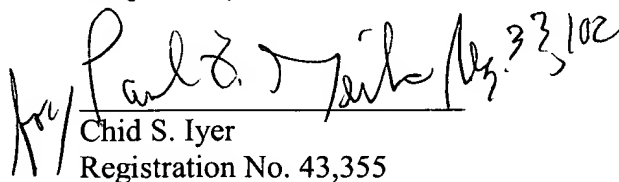
direction of the gel block 52 and three-dimensionally distributed in the gel block 52 in accordance with the molecular weight thereof". See line 25 on page 41 to line 2 on page 42 of the Specification.

3. "As a result, the combined bodies of cDNAs and probe DNAs are electrophoresed in the capillaries 64 to be moved in the longitudinal direction of the capillaries 64 and are distributed in the longitudinal direction of the capillaries 64 in accordance with the molecular weight thereof, thereby being fractionated". See lines 9 to 13 on page 43 of the Specification.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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